

LOVET-LORSKI, BORIS

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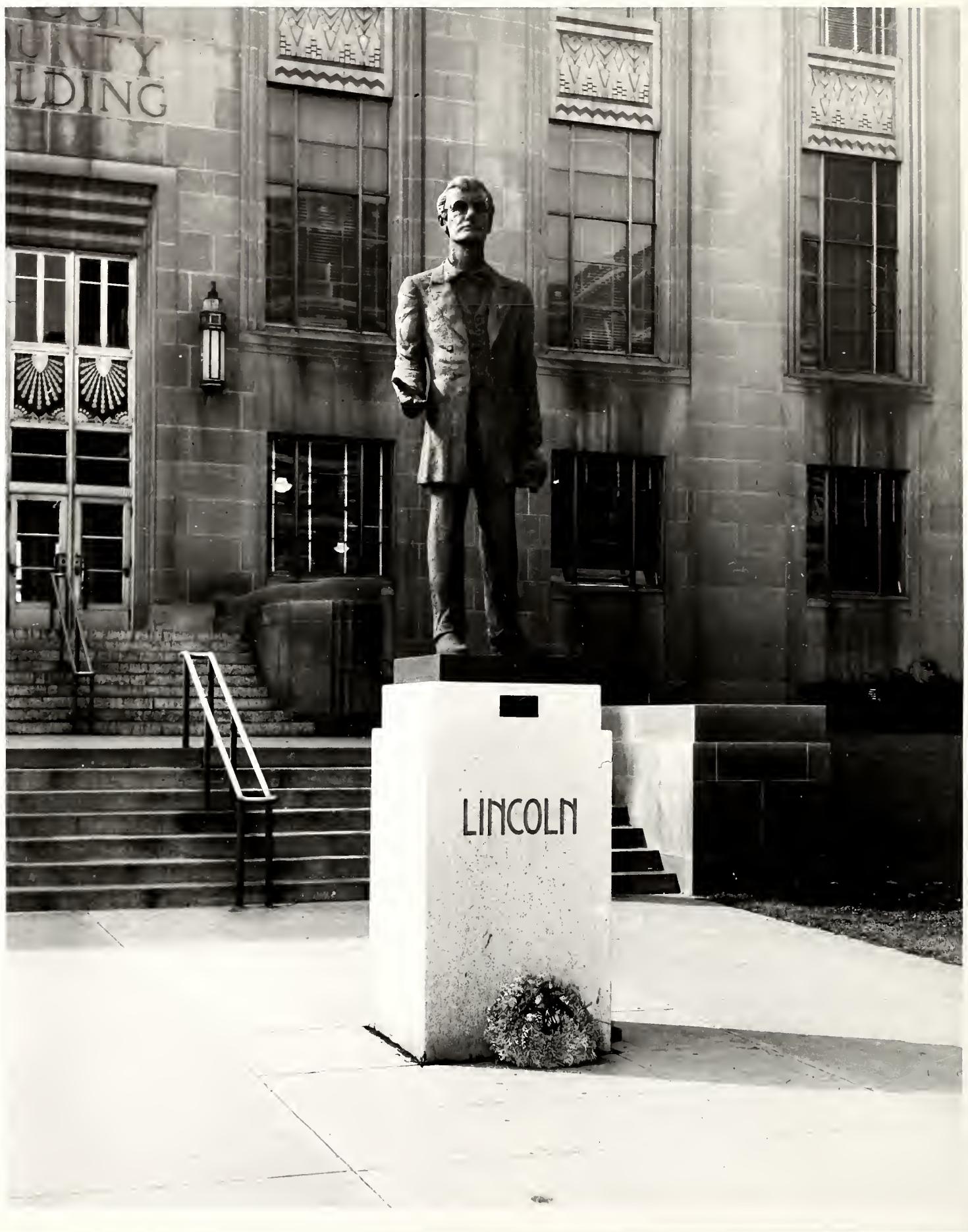


# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Boris Lovet-Lorski

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



# THE "REALISTIC" LINCOLN

A STATUE OF THE SIXTEENTH  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Created by

BORIS LOVET-LORSKI

Dedicated in Decatur, Illinois

8 September 1946

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## LOVET-LORSKI'S LINCOLN

Bronze statuette by Boris Lovet-Lorski; a small version of the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Decatur, Illinois. The heroic statue was dedicated in Decatur on September 8, 1946. It was the gift to the community by Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson. Mr. and Mrs. S. R. C. Scherer of Decatur were the city's leaders in the selection of the sculptor and his creation.

The sculptor wanted to present Lincoln as he looked as Decatur had seen him a century before -- a frontier lawyer, awkward and tall. Dudley Crafts Watson of the Art Institute of Chicago called it "the liveliest Lincoln ever to be put into bronze."

The small version is 25 inches high. It is one of two made by Lovet-Lorski. One was given to Mr. and Mrs. Scherer and the other was retained by the sculptor. This is the Scherer copy, together with Mrs. Scherer's scrapbook of photographs, clippings, brochures and letters from the artist, that we make available. The work is described in Lincoln In Marble and Bronze by F. Lauriston Bullard, Rutgers University Press, [1952].

**\$9,500.00**



# Dawsons to Give Statue Of Lincoln to Community

By EDWIN F. COLE  
Of the Herald-Review Staff

Eighty-one years after the death of Abraham Lincoln and more than a century after he made this vicinity his home, Decatur and Macon county is to have a statue of the beloved 16th President of the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson, 841 West Wood street, lifelong residents of the city, have contracted for the creation of a bronze statue of Lincoln and will present it to Decatur and Macon county.

The statue will be between seven and eight feet tall. Its overall height will be increased to approximately 12 feet by the Georgia granite base upon which it will be mounted.

#### As Young Lawyer

The statue, an original figure, will portray Lincoln as the young lawyer as he might have appeared while presenting a case in court at the time he was traveling the judicial circuit through Macon county.

The sculptor is Russian-born Boris Lovet-Lorski of New York City. He will begin work on the statue this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Dawson said they will request permission of the Macon county board of supervisors to place the statue near the County building, between the northwest corner of the structure and the corner of the building grounds.

Mr. Lovet-Lorski has concurred with Mr. and Mrs. Dawson in their preference of this location for the statue.

Mr. Dawson, member of the undertaking firm of Dawson & Wilkoff, also former Macon county coroner for 12 years, and his wife, Christina, said yesterday that their gift of the statue to Decatur and Macon county is the outgrowth of their admiration for Abraham Lincoln and their wish to contribute to citizens of their community a lasting memorial to Lincoln.

**May Be Ready in August**  
Completion of the statue, which will be cast in New York City after preliminary work on the cast on Staten Island, is expected sometime in August, Mr. Lovet-Lorski said. Unless there are unforeseen delays, the statue will be erected here in mid-September.

Aiding Mr. and Mrs. Dawson in planning for purchase of the services of the sculptor and creation of the figure of Lincoln has been Mrs. Kay C. Scherer, 809 East Cantrell street, a native of New Orleans and past president of the Decatur Garden club.

"The idea for purchase of the

statue originated with Mrs. Dawson," Mr. Dawson related. "She proposed that we consider something of this kind in the future, and after carrying the plan in our minds for quite some time, we decided to take immediate steps toward carrying out the idea.

"Mrs. Dawson was acquainted with Mrs. Scherer as president of the Garden club and knew that



BORIS LOVET-LORSKI

she had art training. The next step was to ask Mrs. Scherer to help us. She has been diligent in her efforts to arrange for us to obtain the statue and has handled all the correspondence regarding it.

#### Lovet-Lorski Selected

"It was she who talked with Dr. Dudley Crafts Watson of the Chicago Art Institute. Dr. Watson recommended several sculptors, among them Mr. Lovet-Lorski. Mrs. Scherer, after consulting us, got in touch with Mr. Lovet-Lorski and agreed to do the work."

Mr. Lovet-Lorski, in Decatur five days last week to go over plans for the statue with Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, said that he has long felt that

he wanted to do a Lincoln figure, but that this was his first opportunity. He declared that the clay model of Lincoln he has created was molded purely from memory.

"When a sculptor is called upon for a portrayal, usually he goes to a library or art gallery to study his subject and to look at prints," Mr. Lovet-Lorski related.

"However, the vision of Lincoln is so impregnated in my mind that I needed neither books nor prints for reference.

#### Etched on Mind

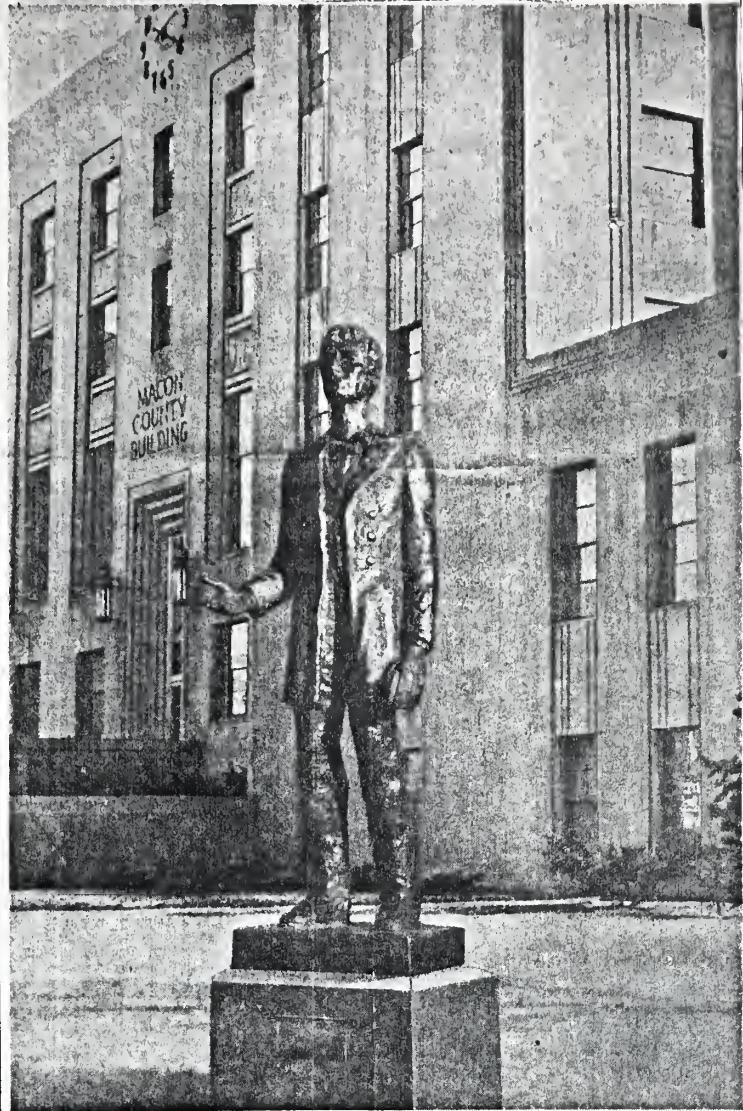
"I looked within my own mind for 10 days, created the picture there and then went ahead with the model."

"I look upon Lincoln not as the rail-splitter—not as the Great Emancipator, but as a great person—the visionary and the humanitarian. As such he has been etched upon my mind since childhood and as such I have sought to portray him."

Who's Who in America carries the information that Mr. Lovet-

Please turn to Page 4—"Statue"

## PROPOSED POSITION FOR GIFT STATUE OF LINCOLN



Permission of the county board of supervisors to place a Lincoln statue in the approximate position in which it is shown above will be requested by Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson, who announced yesterday that

they have purchased the statue and will present it to Decatur and Macon county. Mr. and Mrs. Dawson have talked with B. F. Johnson, chairman of the board of supervisors, but Mr. Johnson yesterday had not had sufficient time to confer

with board members regarding their views on placing the statue on the grounds of the County building. The figure shown above is a photograph of the clay model brought to Decatur by the sculptor.

(Herald-Review photo)

St. Louis Herald 1-20-46

# Where Did Lincoln Live?

## Revival of Lincoln Homesite Park Expected

Among the pre-war projects which may be revived is the development of the Abe Lincoln Homesite Park, south of Harrisburg, it is expected by Alan N. Buck, county superintendent of highways.

The project is under the control of state park authorities, Mr. Buck said, but the county highway department will continue its cooperation.

One of the problems the state was trying to solve, before attention was drawn to war needs, was the exact location of the Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln cabin in which Abraham Lincoln lived soon after arrival in Illinois.

History has it that the cabin was washed away in the high waters, leaving no trace of its site. Paul Maynard, Chicago archeologist, delved into the problem four years

ago, cooperating with officials of the state department of parks, but, so far as publicly reported, did not determine the precise location of the pioneer cabin.

In the search, top soil was removed and analyzed for traces of human habitation. A few rocks and parts of brick, which might have been used as foundation stones, were discovered. There is no controversy as to the general location, but the exact site was sought for the proposed erection of a duplicate cabin.

Dennis and John Hanks, cousins of Lincoln's mother, first cleared the site, prior to 1830, and assembled logs and other material for construction, but later chose another location for their home. When Thomas Lincoln and his family arrived, they took over and completed the erection of the

4-19-46

LOCAL 3

## Lincoln Statue Completion Due By Sept. 1

The bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, now being constructed in New York for Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson, and to be presented by them to Decatur and Macon county, will be completed by Sept. 1.

Boris Lovet-Lorski, Russian-born sculptor, employed by Mr. and Mrs. Dawson to create the bronze figure of Lincoln, said that his work on the statue is progressing as scheduled.

Mr. Lovet-Lorski arrived in Decatur Wednesday from New York. He will go to Chicago today and then return to Decatur on April 25.

### Confer on Location

Mr. Lovet-Lorski conferred yesterday with Mr. Dawson, Rodney E. Spangler, Decatur architect, and members of the building committee of the board of supervisors, on possible location of the statue on the grounds of the Macon county building.

Mr. Spangler is preparing a sketch of the statue as it would appear if placed on the broad, street-level walk leading to the north entrance of the county building.

Members of the building committee indicated that they would not oppose placing the statue immediately north of the first flight of steps leading to the north entrance.

### Would Need Support

Such a location, it was said, would call for placing a heavy foundation under the sidewalk to support the granite base and seven-foot bronze figure. However, the foundation under the sidewalk, it was pointed out, would not need to be placed at such a great depth as a foundation under the statue if it were erected on the lawn, opposite the northeast corner of the county building. Such a location was first proposed.

The basement of the old county building, it was said, was under the location opposite the corner, and the foundation would need to go to the depth of the old basement to be on solid footing.

The sketch being prepared by Mr. Spangler will be presented to the board of supervisors in their called meeting on April 24. A decision by the board on the location is expected during the meeting.

4-19-46

## Lincoln Artist Comes Today

Boris Lovet-Lorski, artist who has been commissioned to make the statue of Abraham Lincoln which Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dawson are presenting to Decatur, is arriving this evening from his home in New York, for a few days stay. Mr. Lovet-Lorski's statue shows a young Lincoln in the days when he was pleading cases on the Illinois circuit that included Decatur, and the figure stands with outstretched hand as though making a speech. The statue has about reached the stage now where it is ready for casting in metal.

### Park Board Asked To Study Statue Site

The Decatur park board last night was asked to consider if a site more appropriate for the Lincoln statue to be given Decatur by Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson might be donated by the board.

Mrs. Ray C. Scherer, representing the Dawson family, appeared before the board with Boris Lovet-Lorski, the sculptor of the statue.

The matter was deferred for further discussion by the board. George Caldwell, president, explained to Mrs. Scherer and Mr. Lovet-Lorski that a decision was made by the board many years ago to restrict the location of all memorials and statues to the Fairview park hill on which the Lincoln log cabin stands. He said that it would take further discussion of the board before a decision to break the old precedent could be made.

Mrs. Scherer explained that she and the artist were attempting to determine the location in which the statue would be shown to the best advantage and in which the most Decatur residents would have an opportunity to view it.

Although no definite decision has been made, she said that the site near the Rock Garden at Nelson park where the flagpole now stands, had been considered as one of several locations for the statue.

# 2,000 Attend Unveiling of Lincoln Statue

More than 2,000 persons gathered on the Macon County Building lawn yesterday afternoon to witness the unveiling of one of Decatur's finest gifts—a statue of Abraham Lincoln, the lawyer—made possible by donor's Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson.

Midway in the impressive, though brief, ceremony, Miss Mary Louise Scherer stepped to the base of the statue, which had been concealed by a wood-and-canvas framework, and pulled the cord that revealed the seven-foot bronze figure to Decatur citizens for the first time.

The bronze interpretation of Lincoln, the lawyer, created by sculptor Boris Lovet-Lorski, shows the young barrister standing firmly, chin up and eyes forward, with one hand slightly lifted in appeal and the other clutching his documentation of justice.

#### Statue Not "Pretty"

Many in the audience, at their first glimpse of the great bronze figure, exclaimed over its "realness." The Lovet-Lorski interpretation of Lincoln, the lawyer, is not a "pretty" one most of the spectators felt. But this, they also felt, is its virtue. Nothing of the youthful awkwardness of the tall, lanky Lincoln is omitted. His huge hands hang from the too-short coat sleeves and his sizeable feet are firmly planted on the pedestal base. His rugged features are easily discernible and his mouth and eyes are set in the determination of youth.

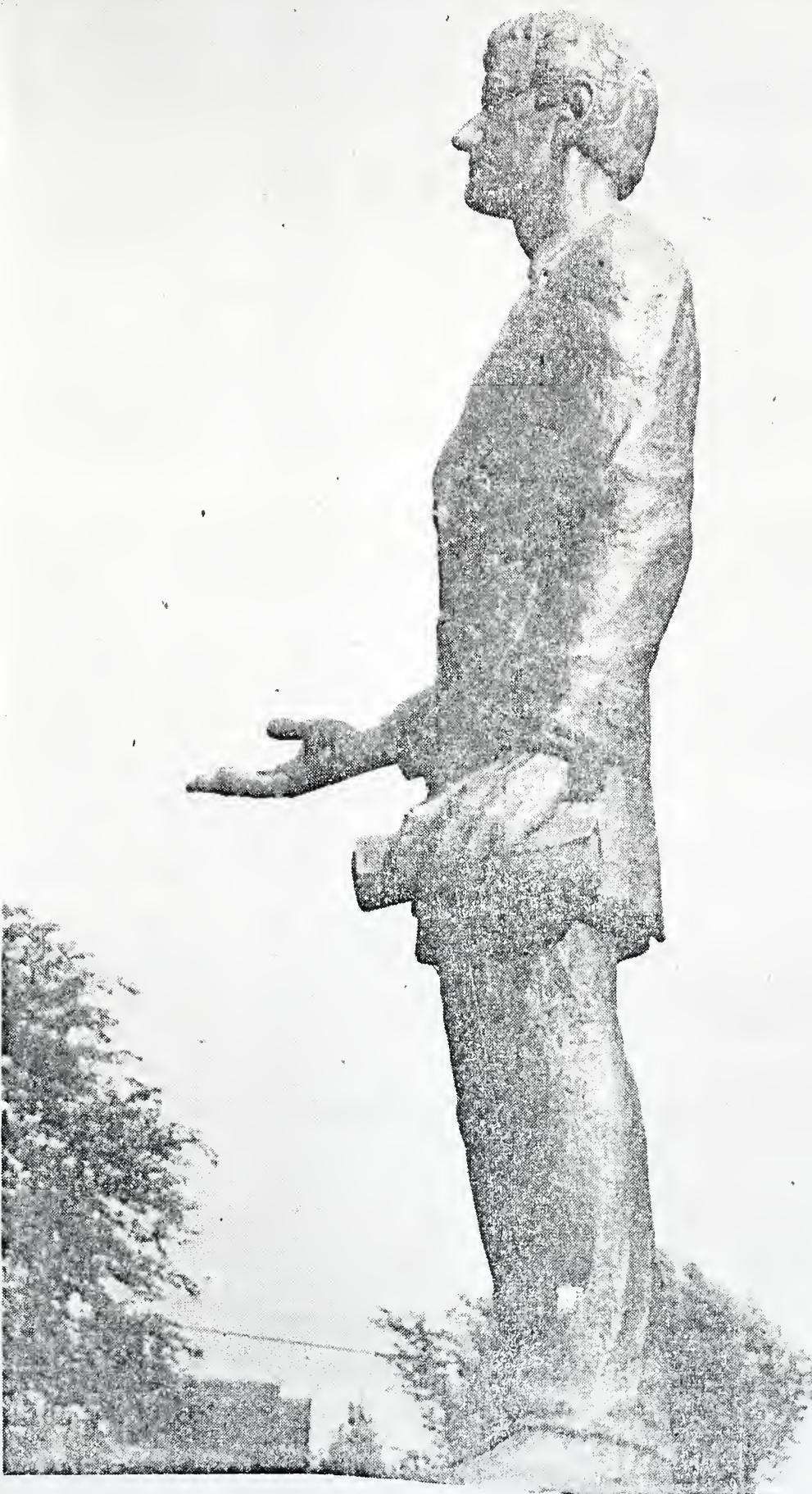
Dr. Dudley Crafts Watson, of the Chicago Art Institute, in his address, "Lincoln in Art," on other artistic interpretations of the famous president, called the Lovet-Lorski creation the "liveliest Lincoln ever to be put into bronze."

#### Plate Describes Figure

The statue is placed on a red granite base five feet, four inches high, to which a bronze plate describing the figure and bearing the names of the donors is attached. The great bronze head of the figure towers more than 13 feet above the wide concrete walk leading to the first flight of steps at the main entrance of the county building.

A half-hour concert by the Municipal band, led by Everett Crane, opened the dedication ceremonies at 3:30 p. m. Rev. Carrel W. Fallowell, of the Central Christian church, offered a brief prayer, and Senator Lawrence Rotz introduced the half-dozen speakers that made up the half-hour program.

## BRONZE LINCOLN COMES TO DECATUR



and director of the Decatur Art Center, spoke of the Dawson gift as "the Lincoln as Decatur knew him a hundred years ago." Mr. Neal pointed out that although the world knew Lincoln as the leader of our country, Central Illinois persons best knew him as "a vigorous young Lincoln doing his humanitarian tasks without thought of grave responsibilities that later were to fall upon him."

Following Mr. Neal's talk, the statue was formally unveiled by Miss Mary Louise Scherer, daughter of Mrs. R. C. Scherer, chairman of the statue committee.

Mayor James A. Hedrick accepted the statue from the donors, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dawson, in behalf of the city, and added that the impressive figure would be a source of inspiration for the young people of the city who would be reminded of the young Lincoln who became his country's leader "even without the modern educational opportunities of today."

#### Commends Donors

H. E. Johnson, chairman of the board of supervisors, in accepting the statue on behalf of Macon county, said that the donors were to be "highly commended" for their splendid contribution.

Dr. Dudley Crafts Watson traced the steps in the statue's completion—from the idea as conceived by Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, to the final creation of the figure by the Russian-born artist.

Today's final acceptance ceremonies of the original statue terminates long months of work and study on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. R. C. Scherer, chairman of the committee, who was asked by the donors to assist in determining the type of statue that would be appropriate for the city.

#### Finished in July

After much study and consideration, Mr. Lovet-Lorski, who is famous for his portrait heads, was engaged to do the work. He began the work in his Long Island studio last January and notified the Decatur committee that the figure was finished the last of July. The statue was crated and shipped here early in August and stored until the unveiling yesterday.

Decision on the site of the statue was made in April, when Macon county board members voted unanimously to place it in the center of the broad walk leading to the main entrance of the county building.

In that location, as Mayor Hedrick said yesterday, it will be a permanent monument that will "inspire passers-by to follow in his example."



Lincoln the lawyer—the statue presented to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson in yesterday's dedication ceremony at the Macon county building, is a seven-foot bronze figure, created by the Russian-born sculptor,

Boris Lovet-Lorski. It depicts Lincoln as the young and ambitious barrister who came to Decatur to try one of his first cases. Placed in the center of the broad walk leading to the main entrance of the county building,

## Location of Lincoln Bronze Has Historical Significance

Edwin D. Davis, of rural route seven, whose hobby is Lincoln lore, watched yesterday's unveiling of the new Lincoln statue that has been presented to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dawson, and immediately pointed out that the location of the figure is, by intent or not, of historical significance.

The 70-year-old collector of Lincolniana said that the bronze Lincoln is facing the exact spot, only a block and a half away, on which he accepted the state nomination for the presidency in 1860.

The out-door meeting, Mr. Davis said, was held on what is now

State street and it was at this gathering that a cousin of Lincoln, John Hanks, dubbed the lawyer the "Illinois railsplitter,"—a name that followed him to the White House.

Lincoln was later nominated at the state convention in Chicago, and was inaugurated as President of the United States on March 4, 1861, polling 180 electoral votes to best his opposition, Breckinridge.

Mr. Davis said that his grandfather heard young Lincoln make one of his first Decatur speeches in front of what is now the Lincoln theater, and that his father was present at the state nomination meeting on State street in 1860.

August 7, 1963

Editor, Decatur Herald  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Sir:

In the Decatur Herald issues of September 9, 1946 and January 20, 1946, were pictures of the statue of Abraham Lincoln by Sculptor Boris Lovet-Lorski.

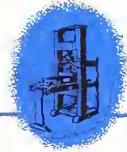
We need a picture of this statue to complete our picture file of Lincoln heroic bronze statues, and we wonder if it is possible for you to send us an 8 x 10 glossy print of this statue?

We would be glad to pay whatever cost is involved to get a copy of this print. Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely yours,

rph/

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins



# Decatur Herald and Review

365 N. MAIN ST., DECATUR, ILLINOIS. PHONE 429-5151

August 9, 1963

The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Mrs. Ruth P. Higgins  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Higgins:

You have asked about photographic prints. We'll be glad to fill your order.

Charges for prints from our negatives are as follows:

3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (contact print*), glossy finish paper (made from regular size neg.)	25¢ ea.
4" x 6" or smaller enlargements from small 35mm or 2" x 2" negatives	75¢ ea.
5" x 7" enlargements, **either dull or glossy finish	75¢ ea.
8" x 10" enlargements, **either dull or glossy finish	\$1.00 ea.

Airview and special views, rates according to subject and size.

\* Contact prints show all the picture in the original negative, even though all of the picture may not be used in the newspaper.

\*\* Enlargements will be printed to show all the picture in the original negative unless you say you want only the part used in the newspaper or show what part of the negative you want.

Rush orders (pictures wanted in less than 1 week) will be double priced.

Charge for copy negative from our photo, if no negative available. \$1.50 ea.

Please tell how many prints you want of each size and whether they are to be dull or glossy finish.

Prints are sold only for your own use, such as in scrapbooks, to be framed for home use, etc. They cannot be used in advertising or published in any way without special permission. So if you want to use the picture for publication, please state the name of the publication and tell why you want to use it.

It takes about a week to get the pictures made after we get your order.

We'll be glad to fill your order upon receipt of your check.

Profile ran 9-9-46; front view j-20-46--which are you interested in?

Yours very truly

*Ann Williams*

Library  
DECATUR HERALD AND REVIEW

LINDSAY-SCHAUB NEWSPAPERS

August 12, 1963

Miss Ann Williams  
Decatur Herald and Review  
Library  
365 N. Main Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Miss Williams:

Thank you for your reply of August 9, regarding a print of the Lincoln statue we requested.

Please send us one 8 x 10 inch glossy print of the front view. Enclosed is \$1.00 in cash. We appreciate your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins

rph/

# Accent



By NANCY ROMERO

Accent Section Editor

Presidents come and Presidents go,

but Abraham Lincoln goes on forever.

Americans revere the man and treasure the legends and the lore of the nation's 16th President. Politicians invoke his name and quote him freely to enhance their own image. Teachers tell their students about Lincoln's unusual dedication to learning and about his honesty, using him as a role model for their charges.

Even used car salesmen have been known to use the name "Honest Abe" knowing with those two words they could engender positive thoughts in their customers.

There are many wonderful memorials, monuments and museums dedicated to Lincoln — in Springfield, Ill., and Washington, D. C., especially — but Fort Wayne's Lincoln Library and Museum ranks among the best.

As is often the case, the local citizenry from other parts of the country Lincoln buffs, serious historians, summer vacationers in the City, tourists who read about the museum in a travel guide, people, in fact, from coast to coast know about the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne.

"But we don't get that many people from here," Dr. Mark E. Neely Jr. noted rather sadly. Historian Neely, who is director of the library and museum, said during the February tour of the museum of school tours, but during the remainder of the year local visitors often are few in number.

This year, the February tours will be curtailed since the library and museum will be moved into the new Lincoln National Life Insurance Building in March.

The non-profit library and museum, which constitute the Lincoln National Life Foundation, come under the philanthropic wing of the Lincoln National Corp.

"That is one of the two major wonders of this place," Dr. Neely said during an interview in his museum office. "That a private corporation bothers to sponsor a museum, in something other than its

product."

And the other wonder: Dr. Neely said, is that there is a Lincoln collection of this quality in Fort Wayne, "which is not really on the Lincoln Trail."

"Lincoln's boyhood years in Indiana were in Southern Indiana and, in fact, Fort Wayne didn't even vote for him," Dr. Neely pointed out. "In 1860, Fort Wayne went for Douglas and in 1864, they voted for McClellan."

Abe was in Fort Wayne only once, in 1860, as he traveled East by train to give a speech and be introduced to the Eastern voters as a likely presidential candidate. He changed trains here.

Fort Wayne's closest link to Abraham Lincoln was through one of its most prominent citizens, Hugh McCallum, who served as Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln (see related story below).

And yet, the Lincoln Library and Museum here, started in 1928 under the direction of Dr. Louis A. Warren and subsequently headed by Dr. R. Gerald McMurry, has one of the largest collections of Lincolniana in America.

"Our specialty is having no specialty," Dr. Neely explained. "We are strong on memorabilia, we have a unique and marvelous newspaper clipping file —

— that will be very different. We are going to interpret Abraham Lincoln's life in a chronological narrative which will include more than 50 exhibits. Exhibits later will give a coherent interpretation of Lincoln's life in an effort to present the whole man.

"We have drawers of personal information about Lincoln, from his favorite cake recipe to his hat size. We have a terrific collection of prints; I'd estimate there must be 40 or 50 drawers of clippings just since the time he died. They show the impact of the Lincoln image on the 20th Century.

"In addition, there is a large, valuable collection of original photographs, there are personal items which belonged to the President and his family and there are relics associated with Lincoln. Anything from a Whig before he was a Republican, long before the Civil War. What did it mean? We try to explain that (in the new exhibits). What did he believe in, what did he fight for and why?

"We tend to see this log cabin image of Lincoln," Neely went on, "but his economic ideas were quite sophisticated, not at all what you might expect. When he was located at the West of his times, he saw an undeveloped country. He had a coherent and systematic idea of the development of the West; he saw banks and railroads and industry. It was a developer's dream and those ideas came over from his Whig background.

"The Democrats, for instance, didn't care about developing the land and the culture; they just wanted to expand the territory, not develop it. Lincoln opposed expansion, but wanted to develop and improve the resources America already had."

The new museum will employ many devices to bring the man, Lincoln, to the people. Among them will be large blow-ups of photos and maps. One of the latter

will show how far flung was his territory in Illinois in the days he rode the circuit as a lawyer.

The interpretation of Lincoln's life will begin with his birth, Feb. 12, 1809, in Kentucky and will end with his assassination in Washington, D. C. in 1865.

"This will not be a somber, deadly historical exhibit," Dr. Neely pointed out. "We will keep the marvelous humor of the man, interspersing it throughout."

Dr. Neely, a Texan who has been at the Lincoln Museum and Library for four and one-half years, calls himself "a 19th Century historian with a little more interest in Lincoln than most." He is a Yale graduate and also spent five years there as a graduate student. Prior to coming to Fort Wayne, he taught American history at Iowa State University in Ames.

A literal fount of knowledge about Lincoln, Dr. Neely admits the man "invites study."

"He had to be very intelligent and his verbal skills were dazzling," the historian commented. "Think of it — his mother and father could do nothing but make their mark and his father only learned to sign his own name and yet Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address, one of the pinnacles of writing in all history."

He was a very ambitious man and, Dr. Neely said, his law partner once described him as "a little engine that knew no rest."

"The psycho-historians are working on Lincoln now," Dr. Neely said, "and they will, doubtless, find much to study, but it's all speculative. There have always been disagreements among historians about some of Lincoln's views (on race or the Mexican War, for example), and especially in things he thought would prove to be useful tools," Dr. Neely added. "He studied grammar after the age of 21 and geometry after the age of 40."

"In fact, the significant 'Lincoln finds' today lie in a deeper understanding of what we already have. Very few new artifacts will turn up anymore."

It is Dr. Neely's hope that the new museum will add to that understanding.

## Abe Lincoln 'Lives' Here

Saturday, Jan. 22, 1977 1B

— Lincoln Library

The News-Sentinel

LOVET-LORSK, Boris

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SCULPTURES-L

